

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

I am a retired employee of Bell Atlantic-Verizon. I know from years of working with individual customers that flat fee increases hurt those who are least able to pay for them. It also places the traditional "Baby Bells," which are required to provide service at many levels and service the ENTIRE community, at a severe disadvantage to other communications media. The consumer does not know that their local telephone company is being forced to add on yet another fee mandated by a government entity in which they have no voice or power of oversight. They just know "the phone company is charging me more, I think I'll go to cable." As a member of the CWA, this jeopardizes well paying jobs which enable both women and men to support thier families.

I do not want to pay more for my telephone service! I urge you to reject a flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund. I am concerned that this proposal could make my current service unaffordable.

Under the flat fee proposal you are considering, people who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. In other words, low-volume and primarily residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as a high-volume residential or business customers. This is unfair!

I use my wireless phone for safety, security and convenience. I don't want to lose these benefits so that big businesses can pay less than their fair share. I urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

Keep the USF Fair!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gibson
66 Hunters Run
Haverhill, Massachusetts 01832